have been filled in by the departmental personnel without conducting any examination;

(d) if so, what are the difficulties in promoting the foremen who have been working for the last twenty years on the same post to the post of engineers; and

(e) by when, Government propose to promote the above foremen to the post of engineer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) (a) and (b) None of the foremen engaged in the various projects of Northern Coalfields Limited is working in the same post for more than 20 years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Foremen are promoted to the post of Foreman Incharge and not directly to the post of engineer in the executive cadre.

Production of zinc

2527. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the average annual production of zinc in the country and what has been the annual production during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what was the share of Andhra Pradesh in this production; and

(c) what efforts are being made by HZL and Government to increase zinc production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINES (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The average of annual production of primary zinc in the country during the last

three years are was 1,86,060 tonnes. The year-wise production of parimary zinc during the last three years is given in the table below:

(In tonnes)

Year	Production of Zinc
1999-2000	1,74,957
2000-2001	1,78,015
2001-2002	2,05,209

(b) The quantity of zinc produced by the smelter of HZL located in Visakhapatnam during the last three years was as follows:

(In tonnes)

Year	Production of Zinc
1999-2000	34,364
2000-2001	31,960
2001-2002	36,816

(c) For increasing the production of zinc in the country the following steps have been taken:

(i) HZL has expanded the installed capacity of Vizag and Debari Smelters by 10,000 tonnes each.

(ii) Reconnaissance Permits/Prospecting Licences have been granted for exploration of zinc which may result in find of new zinc deposits and eventual extraction of zinc from the ore.

Investment in Kala-Kote Coal Mines in J & K

2528. MIRZA ABDUL RASHID: Will the Minister of COAL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) how much amount has been invested in Kala-Kote Coal Mines at Kalakat in Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) what is the ratio of Central and State Government in respect of investment on this project;